



## PEAKS Camp Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### When And Where is PEAKS Camp?

PEAKS Camp takes place from March 10 - 16, 2025, in Woodcreek (about one hour south of Austin). The campground is located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country on over 180 acres.

### Who Attends PEAKS Camp?

PEAKS participants have traditionally been youth and young adults (YYA) dealing with vulnerable situations who come to camp along with adult sponsors, such as their caseworkers, youth agency partners, and/or foster parents. At PEAKS Camp, YYA and adults have the chance to work together in equal partnership and build meaningful relationships.

In 2025, TNOYS is hosting PEAKS Camp as two separate cohorts between March 10 -16. Each cohort will comprise 50 youth and young adults (YYA) in foster care and 25 adult sponsors such as caseworkers or youth agency partners.

- **Cohort 1:** March 10 - 13
- **Cohort 2:** March 13 - 16

### Which Dates Can I Sign Up to Volunteer?

Because PEAKS takes place over two cohorts, TNOYS is seeking volunteers who can sign up for at least one cohort (four consecutive days). Below are a few options to get involved:

- **Option 1: Volunteer from March 10 - 13:** Support our first camp cohort from March 10 - 12. On March 13, support TNOYS staff in preparing for the next camp cohort.
- **Option 2: Volunteer from March 13 - 16:** On Thursday, March 13, assist TNOYS staff in preparing for the second camp cohort. You will then support the second cohort from March 14 - 16.
- **Option 3: Volunteer from March 10 - 16:** Support both cohorts to be a true PEAKS champion!

Interested in volunteering, but not able to commit to a full camp cohort? There are many ways to support the camp even if you can join for fewer than four consecutive days. Please email [peaks@tnoys.org](mailto:peaks@tnoys.org) so we can find an option that works for your schedule!

### **How Do Volunteers Support the Camp?**

PEAKS Camp would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers! At PEAKS, volunteers help create a positive, nurturing, nonjudgmental environment, and support groups of campers through a highly structured camp experience. Volunteers lead traditional camp activities and discussion groups with campers, as well as support the camp's execution. Roles might include:

- Supporting groups of youth and adult participants through highly structured, traditional camp activities like sports, arts & crafts, swimming, and more;
- Facilitating team-building activities and group discussions with participants;
- Assisting with journaling activities and other activities to support youth with the transition out of systems and into adulthood;
- Providing general support including camp logistics, set-up, breakdown, clean-up, etc.

### **Who Can Sign Up to Volunteer?**

PEAKS is accepting volunteer applications from individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Must be at least 21 years of age and able to pass criminal history and Child Abuse and Neglect background checks;
- Must participate in a virtual training session on Thursday, February 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;
- Should preferably be able to attend the full camp for at least four consecutive days between March 10 – 16. Overnight lodging is provided. If you choose to not stay on site and wish to commute to camp each day, we ask that you are able to make the morning call time and stay for the duration of each day's schedule.
- Must have the following personal qualities, which are critical for facilitating a strong PEAKS camp program: playful and enthusiastic; commitment to and respect for youth; responsible and professional; sensitive and perceptive; supportive and encouraging; positive attitude.

### **What Are The Accommodations and Meals for Volunteers?**

Everyone who is volunteering at PEAKS has the option to stay overnight at the campground. Volunteers will be assigned two designated cabins for lodging (one for male volunteers and one for female volunteers), which may also include adult sponsors from DFPS.

At the PEAKS volunteer training, volunteers will receive a packing list and recommendations for what to bring to camp (such as bedding, supplies, etc.)

### **What is the Volunteer Schedule for Each Cohort?**

All volunteers will receive a complete agenda with pertinent information such as arrival and departure times, individual schedules, and roles during camp. Tentative arrival and departure times are as follows:

Cohort 1: March 10 - 13

- Arrive onsite at about 10:00 a.m on Monday, March 10, 2025
- Depart in the afternoon on Thursday, March 13, 2025

Cohort 2: March 13 - 16

- Arrive onsite at about 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025
- Depart in the afternoon on Sunday, March 16, 2025

TNOYS will make accommodations for volunteers who need to arrive later/ depart earlier. If you anticipate needing a more flexible schedule, please email us at [peaks@tnoys.org](mailto:peaks@tnoys.org) so we can accommodate you.

**What Training and Onboarding Can Volunteers Expect?**

We ask that all volunteers attend an onboarding training on Thursday, February 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The training will cover the PEAKS schedule in detail as well as volunteer roles, information on what to bring and how to prepare, etc. If you are unable to attend the training, please reach out to [peaks@tnoys.org](mailto:peaks@tnoys.org) so we can accommodate you.